

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W
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P 261445Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3307

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG US PC

SUBJECT: MUBUTU ASKS THAT PEACE CORPS PROCEED TO BRING IN
NEW CONTINGENT OF PCVS

1. IN COURSE OF MEETINGS ON OTHER SUBJECTS BETWEEN SECRETARY'S SPECIAL EMISSARY, AMBASSADOR SHELDON VANCE, AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU, SUBJECT OF OUR PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN ZAIRE CAME UP TWICE. ON JUNE 24 VANCE TOLD MOBUTU THAT APPROXIMATELY 100 PCVS WERE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SOON IN ZAIRE FOR ORIENTATION AND ASSIGNMENT AND HE ASKED IF MOBUTU STILL WANTED THEM. MOBUTU HESITATED AND THEN SAID QUITE AMIABLY THAT PERHAPS THEY SHOULD NOT COME. THE PC PROGRAM HAD BEEN SET UP HERE, AS VANCE WELL KNEW, AT TIME WHEN THERE WAS FULL MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US AND ZAIRE. IT WOULD PERHAPS NOT BE FAIR TO PCVS TO HAVE THEM COME AT TIME WHEN THIS CONFIDENCE DAMAGED. MOBUTU HASTENED TO ADD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RISK TO THEIR PERSONS OR PROPERTY, BUT THEY MIGHT FIND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE CHANGED. HE SUGGESTED WE KEEP PRESENT PC PROGRAM IN ZAIRE BUT NOT REPLACE DEPARTING PCVS. HE THEN AMENDED THIS TO SAY THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN "WELL-CONTROLLED" PROGRAMS THAT SHOULD NOT SUFFER FROM ATTRITION. HERE HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE DR. CLOSE'S MEDICAL PROGRAM (FOMECO) WHERE HE DEFINITELY WANTED PCVS REPLACED AS THEIR TOURS OF DUTY ENDED. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION MOBUTU ASKED VANCE TO GET
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HIM LIST SHOWING NAMES OF ALL PCVS IN ZAIRE, WHAT THEY

ARE DOING, WHERE STATIONED, WHEN ARRIVED, WHEN DEPARTING,
AS WELL AS NAMES OF PCVS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN FEW DAYS
WHO FIT INTO CATEGORY OF PCVS HE WANTED TO CONTINUE TO
COME. SAID HE WOULD THEN DECIDE.

2. VANCE PRESENTED MOBUTU DURING JUNE 25 MEETING WITH
COMPLETE RUNDOWN PREPARED BY PC DIRECTOR. (PC WILL PROVIDE
FRENCH TRANSLATION TO MOBUTU SOON.) VANCE REMINDED MOBUTU
THAT NEW PCV GROUP SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE JULY 4-5 MOBUTU
SAID TO LET THEM COME, ADDING THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER LATE
WHETHE HE WANTED ANY CHANGES IN THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM
IN ZAIRE. VANCE FEELS STRONGLY THAT PCVS SHOULD COME
AHEAD.

3. EMBASSY AND PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR RECOMMEND THAT THEY
COME
ANDREW

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